

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
Tadahiro OHMI et al.) Group:
Serial No.:)
Filed: December 27, 2000)
Title: WELDING METHOD FOR FLUORINE-) Examiner:
PASSIVATED MEMBER FOR WELDING)
FLUORINE-PASSIVATED METHOD)
AFTER BEING WELD, AND WELDED)
PARTS)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant hereby submits the following Amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, as the first paragraph before "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION AND DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART".

--This case is a divisional of co-pending U. S. Patent Application No. 09/130,583.--

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A welding method for materials to be welded which are subjected to fluoride passivation treatment, wherein, when materials to be welded, comprising the steps of:

[stainless steel subjected to fluoride passivation treatment are welded,] adding hydrogen [is added] to a gas (back shield gas) flowing through the materials to be welded; and welding stainless steel which is subjected to fluoride passivation treatment.

In Claim 2, line 1, please delete "A" and insert --The--.

3/a
D.G.
4-29-02

A1
A2
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